

NATIONAL
LAWYERS
GUILD

NATIONAL OFFICE

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10/22/76

CU 154 E

President Jorge Videla
Buenos Aires, Argentina

October 22, 1976

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

Re: Mr. Andrés Cultelli

Mr. President:

The National Lawyers Guild, an organization of over 5,000 North Americans, strongly protests the arbitrary, inhumane and unlawful prison sentence imposed upon Andrés Cultelli, and urges that Mr. Cultelli be permitted to leave Argentina for any destination of his own choice.

Mr. Cultelli, now imprisoned at Unidad Carcelaria No. 2, in Sierra Chica, partido de Olavarría, Provincia de Buenos Aires, was accused by the Argentine Federal Justice of using false documents and of unlawful contacts or gatherings. Resolution No. 02189 for his expulsion from Argentina appears in File No. 48.950/75. The United Nations Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees of course prohibits expulsion of Mr. Cultelli to Uruguay, the country from which he had sought refuge in Argentina prior to his arrest.

Mr. Cultelli was sentenced by the Argentine tribunal to 14 years in prison, although Security Law No. 20,840, pursuant to which he was tried, provides for a maximum sentence of eight years, and the Federal Prosecutor himself suggested a maximum of five years. Mr. Cultelli, a man of fifty-five, is in a poor state of health as a result of the severe torture to which he was subjected during the weeks following his arrest, and is almost blind as a result of a previous eye ailment exacerbated by the conditions of his detention. The National Lawyers Guild therefore urges his release.

Once again the eyes of the world are upon your Government to see whether official Argentine protestations of concern for the plight of refugees, and of support for human rights will be realized in the case of Andrés Cultelli.

Sincerely,

Susan D. Susman

Susan D. Susman,
National Co-Chairperson
Latin America Subcommittee
National Lawyers Guild

cc: Senator Jacob Javits
Congressman Donald Fraser

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President, William Goodman Vice President, Mary Alice Theiler
Treasurer, Miriam

